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XXVII

LETTER

Written to A

MEMBER

Sitting At

WESTMINSTER,

not dated



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LETTER

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WESTMINSTER



YOUNG

Printed in the Year 1800.



A.

LETTER

Written to a

MEMBER &c.

SIR,

Out of that great service and high esteem I have for you, both as a Gentleman and Christian; I presume to give you the trouble of this paper, which I beg of you most ingenuously to peruse, as a Person of Reason and Civility, which I hope as yet you have not wholly cancelled: And therefore I take the freedome to present you with the Scene of their publick transactions, as a Member of the House; desiring you would be pleased to treat your self with the serious consideration of the Admirable dispensations of Divine providence and justice, clearly evidenced to a common apprehension in that true *Lex Talionis*. The House of Commons at the begining of their Sessions, having by their fair pretences gained a good opinion with the Vulgar, did raise and foment great Tu- mults, as a means, when they could not convince by Arguments, to over-awe with power of those, who by their clamorous insolence, so violently assaulted the late Kings

sacred person, that they forced him for his own defence to a retirement from Westminster. Not many years after those very Contrivers, the greater part of the House, though they highly caressed Cromwell and the Army at *Triploe-Heath* near Cambridge; (promising them by *Skippon* an Act of Indemnity, and their Arrears) were beaten notwithstanding with their own weapons, every Regiment crying Justice, Justice, which was the same language, which the Tumulks first used against the King by their connivance and instigation: and afterwards was echoed by the Army against themselves to their seclusion, in 1648. When these present Members, the minor part of the House (designing to make themselves absolute, and to divide the large Revenues of the Church and Crown among themselves and their Adherents, as a poor perry reward for their greater service to the Kingdom) did fear the greater and honest part of the House would spoile their game, in voting the concessions of the late King at the *Isle of Wight* to be a ground of a firm peace, and being out numbered could not carry on their design by a Vote, courted the Army into a compliance with their unhandsome fence, which was to keep out the greater part of the House by force, because they would not submit to their Judgments, to their too too partial Interest. I wish I could not call these proceedings Arbitrary, which have no other Basis, but the dictates of their own Will, which would have been happily buried in their first conception without any farther product, had they not received birth and sustenance from a military power, good Physick in time of great distempers, but an ill constant nourishment. It had been better their Resolves had merited their value from a due number of **Voter**, then from the unequal balance of an unjust weight of **Arms**; But may be they will reply the least part of the House was the best, the greater as they pretend was acted in principles destructive to the Kingdom. This is the one sense, if they may decide the dispute; But they are not competent Judges in their own Case. For they being the lesse, ought to be governed by the greater part of the House; and so

to Major pars signandi est tota; the Major part of the convention
 is the whole, and the lesse is to subscribe to the greater. Else
 farewell all order and due determination of Controversies in
 publick or private Assemblies: If the worsted party may be per-
 mitted to dispute, every man is so much a kin to his own Judg-
 ments, as part of himself, that he will never acknowledg him-
 self to be conscious of error, alwayes attened with the sad
 consequents of guile and shame. Therefore when the lesse con-
 siderable part of the House could not protect themselves by the
 reason of Law, they over-powered the greater by the Law of the
 Sword, in some cases a good hand of Justice, but alwayes an
 ill-head of Law, of which the Souldiery is little versed in the
 Theory, and therefore too much in the Practick, being unfit
 Arbitrators of it, although the unhappy differences of this un-
 sober Age have too often made them so. Now the Minor part
 of the House having created themselves sole Masters of the
 House of Commons, did farther act the Polititians, and did by
Ragione di stato, contrive a way to lessen the power of the
 Crown the Fountain of Honour, by taking away the great
 stream of it, the House of Barons, who had a high obliga-
 tion to serve him, who hid conferred their Honour upon
 them: The surviving Fraction of the lower House, did by an
 insolent Ordinance pull down the upper, which was much more
 Antient and Honourable than their own. This Action exceed-
 ing all rules of reason and sobriety, did not give bounds to their
 Arrogance and Ambition, setting their Feet on the Necks of
 the Lords, that they might more easily strike at the head
 of the King, when contrary to all Law, Religion, their Protestation,
 League and Covenant, and Oath of Allegiance by a pretended
 Court of Justice, and their omnipotent power, they Arraigned,
 Sentenced, and most inhumanely Murdered; And afterward
 Banished the just Heir of the Crown, and his Royal Relations,
 making them first hear the Subject of their own Malice, and a-
 broad the Object of others Charity. What English Heart that
 hath either sense of Humanity, Loyalty, or Religion, but must
 highly resent these unheard of Barbarisms, with no lesse au-
 nishment than indignation? All which they have committed,
 that they might highen themselves above all Law, no body
 on Earth (as they conceived) being in a capacity to call them to
 an account for their Violations of Humane and Divine Laws. But
 they were highly mistaken; This illegal deportment towards
 their

their Fellow Members , the House of Lords , and our late most Gracious Sovereign , chalked out the way to their Servants (that were Commissioned to fight for them) to turn their Masters , they constituting the Souldiery first Moderators between them and their Fellow Members , devolved a power on the Army , after the House had most Barbarously taken away their Head that most pious Saint and Martyr the King , and when they had sat so long , and expended so much Blood and Treason , and done so little good for the Nation : Cromwell by the power of the Sword did deem it a peice of Honour to himself , and Justice to the Kingdom to take them out of the House , they having so unnaturally destroyed their own Heads , were no better than dead Members in Law , as the Masters of that faculty do affirm : When they had by the cursed insinuations of the Jesuits (ever pernicious Counsellours to this Nation , given that fatal stroke , which at once determined our Royal Sovereign and themselvs , and the Glory & Happiness of these then three flourishing Kingdomes . I wish they did travel abroad , that they might be better educated , and then their Ears would ring , and their hearts I hope relent to hear the sad Chatacter , the World giveth of them in their paralel with the Jews , by reason of that horrid murther . I wish them from myvery Soul a heaety contrition of Spirit in an unfeigned Repentance , that the most precious blood of that immaculate Lamb may wash them clean from the guilty of that innocent blood , which else will cry loud against them at that greater Session above , when they shall be divested of all power of the Souldiery to assist them . Now I beg of them to entettain themselves in their own Ordinances , in which they may be pleased to take a short view of their scandalous Transactions , in ejecting their fellow Members , the House of Lords , the Reverend Bishops , most Sacriligious pocketing up the reviewes of the Church and Crowns , shedding that innocent blood , invading all honest mens Liberties and Proprieties . Who out of conscience would not sign the unworthy results of their arbitrary Counsels . I appeal to their own Souls , they being but the lesser faction of the House , guilty of so many bteaches of Trust , for which they were twice ejected by that power , which first gave them their monstrous being ; The People often resuming their Trust in Electing new Delegates to Act for them in many successive Parliaments : Whether

Whether they have not great confidence in Enslaving themselves to a Monopoly (all being put down but themselves) of being perpetual Parliament men. That they might offer a further Rape to the will of the Nation, in debauching them from their first chaste love of Monarchy, the best of Policies for Order, Unity and Commerce, to gratifie their spurious Lust, in the enjoyment of some new light Cutifian, Ociana, a mere Bawd and Romancer of Government, intending therein to Null all Antient Fundamental both Civil and Common Laws, which else will stand as so many Records of their baser crimes, to bring in them for the future to condigne punishments. Give me leave to tell them, that the best way in order to their Temporal and Eternal happiness, is to make peace above and below, with God and the Nation, in speaking a just restitution (according to that good old Schoole Divinity, *Non remittitur peccatum, nisi restituatur ablatum*) for giving up those estates (which they have most injuriously feized) to the true owners the Church, and Crown, and call home again the just Heir, a Person of so much Honour, Piety, and Clemency, that he writheth the unworthy injuries of his Enemies in Dust, and the loyal services of his Friends in Marble. Who is of such a happy memory, that he forgeteth nothing but disservices? But suppose he were not a Person of this Candour, & Moderation, as they would have him to remit those high violations which have been acted by them and their Adherents, against him and the sacred Person of his Royal Father and his Loyal Subjects; They need not possesse themselves with vain fear, when he proffers to them all power of disengaging them, into the ~~hands of their~~ ^{hands} of the King and the Church. His late Declaration that they shall keep his and the Church Lands, till they have received their Money, both Principal, and Interest, which they have paid for them: and then they must confess (if they be ingenious) it is exquitable on all accounts to restore the Lands and Revenue to their true Masters, the King and the Church. Pray be pleased to consider that the Royal interest (without which we have been a prey to Foreign Nations,) will again reconcile us to them, and give us such a repare as to be able to hold a fair correspondence with Foreign ^{Princes}, that the Merchants may receive a due encouragement, who are the Honour and Support of

of the Trade of this Nation ; But some will reply, if the King be enthroned, the Court will speak charge to the Kingdom, but it is easily answered, that it is much less expenceful, than the Army, which costeth two Millions to maintain against a just Court, which never had scarce half a Million beside the Crown Lands, to support it in its greatest Splendour ; and when the King shall be Estate in his Fathers Royal Throne, there will be no need of an Army, he will desire no other Guard but the innocence of his person and the Love of his Subjects. Pray be pleased to communicate my desires to the House, not to sacrifice these Nations (once the envy of the world) to the merciless fury of a Foreign Invasion, to preserve their ill gotten Estates by Sacrilege and Oppression, but to condiscend to the Election of a free Parliament made up of the three Estates of the Kingdom a most excellent Model of Government and a rare Harmony, Composed of the different Interests of the Nation, consering together in this happy Fabrick the only expedient left to Reedifie our Ruined Church, in the restaurations of the reverend Fathers of it, commended to us from the holy Apostles through so many ages, as a defence against Heresie and Schysme and to repair the breaches of our distracted State, in the blessed inaugeration of the Kings most Royal Person, as an instrument of Gods Glory and our happinesse, which that it may sudainly succeed, is the earnest prayer of,

SIR;
Your most faibfull Servant,
L: L.

FINIS.